

REMARKS

Claims 11, 26 and 38 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected to dependent claim 11. Claim 1 is accordingly now in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected to dependent claim 26. Claim 16 is accordingly now in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Claims 1, 10, 13-16, 27, 28, 39, and 40-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kar. Claims 2-6, 8-9, 12, 17-23, 25, 29-35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kar in view of Hoffman. Claims 7, 24 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kar in view of Hoffman and GB 1,249,056.

Claim 28 has been amended to recite both high energy and low energy cascading. It is asserted that this combination of cascading operations is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art. Claim 28 is accordingly now in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Claim 40 has been canceled.

CUSTOMER NO. 23932

PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No. 68614-222USPT

In view of the amendments presented herein, the claim rejections are moot and the application is now ready for favorable action and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKENS & GILCHRIST, P.C.

Andre M. Szuwalski
Registration No. 35,701

Date: _____

6/20/06

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3700
Dallas, Texas 75202-2799
(Direct) 214/855-4795
(Fax) 214/855-4300